(b) if so, what was the total number of samples drawn of finished medicines and vaccines for test from the market during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what was the report of each sample alongwith the names of laboratory where each sample was tested;

(d) what action was taken against the drug companies found guilty;

(e) whether it is a fact that large quantity of vaccines being imported in the country are of sub-standard quality;

(f) if so, the number of sampels of seras and vaccines drawn from different parts during the last two years for test along with names of products and importers; and

(g) what was the test report of each along with the name of laboratory in which it was tested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) Out of total number of samples of medicines and vaccines tested at various Government Laboratories in the country during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 the number of sample found substandard are given below:

Year	No. of samples tested	No. of samples found sub standard	Percentage of sub-standard
1984-85	18504	3532	19.08
1985-86	19035	2705	14.20
1986-87	26082	4030	15.45

Under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules whenever any sample of drug is found to be sub-standard actions like withdrawal of batch from the market etc., Cancellation/Suspension of licences and prosecution of the firm depending upon the nature of test reports are taken by the State Drugs Controllers who are the Licensing Authorities.

(e) to (g) No imports of sub-standard vaccines are permitted into the country. In case vaccine is found to be not of standard quality, the customs authorities are advised to either destroy the vaccine or cause it to be re-shipped to the country of origin. During the year 1985-86 and 1986-87, the number of samples of sera and vaccines tested were 25 and 32 respectively. None of the vaccines/Sera was found to be not of standard quality. All human vaccines are tested at the Central Research Institute, Kasauli.

Gujarat Government Permission on Marketing of Combination of Drugs

948. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the one side Government are actively considering to withdraw irrational combination of drugs and on the other certain State Drug Authorities are granting permission of irrational combination of drugs without any trial, data or any published report;

(b) the names of combination of drugs allowed for manufacture and marketing by Gujarat State Drug Authorities during the last two years;

(c) whether those combination of drugs are being marketed anywhere in the world;

(d) if so, the names of those countries in which each is being marketed;

(e) what is the basis on which Gujarat State Drug Authorities allow manufacturing and marketing of combination of drugs;

(f) whether Government are satisfied with all the approvals granted by Gujarat State Authorities; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) State Drugs Controllers who are the licensing authorities for manufacture and sale of drugs have been licensing combination of known drugs, in consultation with their expert bodies. In order to streamline licensing of combinations of drugs, Government have made certain guidelines which would shortly become statutory. This step has been taken to safeguard against licensing of irrational combinations of drugs by the State Drugs Controllers and to ensure that necessary technical data is furnished before registering a combination product.

State Drug Controllers are the licensing authorities for the manufacture and sale of drugs and their formulations. Names of combination of drugs permitted by the Gujarat State Licensing Authority are maintained by them.

(c) to (g) A sub-committee of the Drug Consultative Committee screens existing formulations in the country from the angle of safety, efficacy and rationality and recommends weeding out of irriational combinations of drugs.

Ban on Production and Sale of the Non-iodised Salt

949. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to ban producing and selling of non-iodised salt in the country under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(b) if so, by when, and whether the total need of country salt will adequately be met by installed capacity of iodised salt before the ban is enforced;

(c) whether Government are aware of the prevailing market prices of iodised salt and common salt; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether distribution of iodised salt is also likely to be brought under the purview of Essential Commodities Act and the common man will be able to purchase it at the same rate that he is paying for purchase of non-iodised salt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Iodisation of salt is the sample and cheapest method for the control of Goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders. The Government has launched a national programme for control of goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders though iodisation of the entire edible salt in the country in a phased manner by 1992. Consequently, the State/Union Territory Governments were requested to issue necessary notifications banning sale of salt other than iodised salt under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. So far 11 States and one Union Territory have issued ban notifications.

(b) At present, against and installed capacity for production of iodised salt is 33.00 lakh M.T. The target for complete iodisation of salt in the country will be achieved in the phased manner by 1992.

(c) As per available information, the prevailing market price of iodised salt varies from Rs. 1.20 to Rs. 2.00 per Kg. and of common salt Rs. 0.70 to Rs. 1.15 per Kg.

(d) The iodised salt is proposed to be available through all normal trade channels including Fair Price Shops, Super Bazars, Kendriya Bhandars Cooperatives etc.

In order to check the price of iodised salt, Government is providing 100 per cent subsidy for Potassium Iodate which is the Chemical used for iodisation to the iodised salt manufacturers.